ASHTON-UPON-MERSEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# Medical Officer's Report

*For the year ending December 31st, 1914.*

CHARLES J. RENSHAW, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*January 12th, 1915*

With the Medical
Officer's Compliments

To the Chairman and Members of the

**ASHTON-UPON-MERSEY**

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Report for 1914 :—

The Population at the Census of 1911 was 7,234.

The Population now is estimated about the same as last year—7,750.

The area in acres is 1,611. Persons to the acre 4·8.

Deaths registered in the district, 78,

Death Rate per 1,000 living persons is 10.

Children under 1 year, 2 deaths, giving a death rate of 11 per 1,000 births.

The deaths from Zymotic diseases were :—Diphtheria, 3 ; Whooping Cough 1 ; and Diarrhœa, 1.

There were 171 births registered during the year, giving a birth rate of 22.

The health in the past year has been good.

The following is a summary of the cases of Infectious Diseases reported :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Diphtheria ... ... ... ... | 9 |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... ... ... | 13 |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... | 32 |
| Enteric Fever ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ... ... | 9 |
| Other form of Tubercle ... ... ... | 5 |

Five of these cases were removed to Monsall, viz. : The case of enteric and four cases of scarlet fever.

In all the cases of tubercle reported, the houses were examined and all infected rooms disinfected.

St. Mary's School had to be closed from January 10th to February 14th, owing to there being an attack of whooping cough amongst the scholars.

All Saints' School also had to be closed for the same cause until February 9th, and S. Martin's was closed about the same time.

All Saints' School was again closed on account of chicken pox in November.

Mumps and measles have been prevalent in the neighbourhood, but the schools have not been closed for these infectious diseases.

I duly received notifications of infectious cases from all the Schools.

The River Mersey has been fairly full of water, the same may be said of the brooks in the locality; there has been little or no smell from them.

There have been several complaints of bad smells from the north-east district; this has been the subject of enquiry by the Local Government Board.

The sewers and sewage disposal works of the Authority are satisfactory.

The population of Ashton-upon-Mersey is mixed, chiefly agricultural; some of the inhabitants work in Manchester and its surroundings, and reside in the country.

The water is supplied by the North Cheshire Water Co., which gets its water from the Corporation of Manchester, chiefly from Woodhead; but in cases of emergency the supply comes also from Thirlmere. It is sufficient in quantity and good in quality.

The soil is earth, gravel and river detritus; clay is found at some depth.

The schools are well built and well supplied with water.

The milk supply is good. No tuberculous milk has been reported. The cows have been inspected and were found to be healthy, clean and well nourished.

The food in the neighbourhood is good and kept in sanitary buildings. No prosecution of anyone for bad food has taken place.

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Chemical and bacteriological requirements have been few, as the health of the locality has been good.

The bacillus of tuberculosis has been searched for at the various tuberculous hospitals or sanatoria where the patients were treated, few having been treated at their own homes, but the aid of the laboratory of Manchester is occasionally requested in infectious cases.

Cowsheds.—These have again been visited, and I am satisfied with the condition in which they are kept.

Slaughter Houses.—I have no complaint to make against these.

Workshops.—Proper supervision has been given, and in no case have I found it necessary to make any complaint.

Housing.—The district not having any industries confirms me in my opinion that there is no necessity for any scheme to be undertaken by the Council for the provision of houses for the working classes. There is no demand for houses of this class.

Closing Orders.—With respect to the closing orders referred to in my last annual report, six of these have now been determined, alterations having been carried out by the respective owners to satisfy the Council's requirements. In four of the remaining five cases the owner is deferring alterations until a more opportune time. No further representations for closing orders have been made to the Council during the year.

House Inspection.—During the year 236 houses have been examined, bringing the total number inspected up to 623. The general character of the houses visited has been good, and the following is a list of the repairs that required attention :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Insanitary Closet Accommodation ... ... | 154 |
| Dampness to Walls ... ... ... ... | 27 |
| Insanitary Yard Surfaces ... ... ... | 47 |
| Defective Gutters and Rain Water Fall Pipes | 9 |
| Untrapped Rain Water Fall Pipes ... ... | 20 |
| Defective Waste Pipes ... ... ... ... | 14 |
| Repairs to W.C.'s and Ashpits ... ... | 6 |
| Defective Drains and Gullies ... ... ... | 21 |
| To Cleanse Houses ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Defective Roofs ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |

In the majority of cases informal notices sufficed, only in nine cases was it found necessary to serve statutory notices.

Closet Accommodation.—The number of privy middens converted into fresh water closets during the year is 142, 140 of which have been carried out under the Act of 1907. This brings the total number of conversions up to 332. The number of privy middens at the beginning of the year was 381. In addition to the conversions carried out 14 privies have been done away with, and the total number of privy middens now stands at 225.

| | |
|---|---|
| Fresh Water Closets number ... ... | 1566 |
| Waste Water Closets number ... ... | 16 |

48 dry Ashpits have been pulled down, and galvanized iron ashbins substituted for the same. The number of ashbins in the district is now 946.

During the year 363 inspections have been made by the Inspector, the subject matter of which is given below. In almost every case an informal notice to the owner was quite sufficient. Proper supervision has been given to all alterations, and the following list shows the sanitary improvements carried out :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Privy Middens converted into W.C's ... | 142 |
| Privies done away with ... ... ... | 14 |
| Ashpits ,, ,, ... ... ... | 48 |
| Houses Re-drained ... ... ... ... | 17 |
| Stopped-up Drains attended to ... ... | 10 |
| Repairs to Ashpits ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| Yard Surfaces repaired ... ... ... | 47 |
| Dampness to Walls ... ... ... ... | 27 |
| Defective Roofs, Gutters, &c. ... ... | 25 |
| ,, Waste Pipes ... ... ... | 14 |

It has not been necessary to make any alterations in the staff in consequence of the war, and having no troops quartered in the district, there has been no occasion to co-operate with the military authorities.

(Signed) CHARLES J. RENSHAW, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*January* 12th, 1915.